ministers, and, secondly, to make that executive body responsible to the legislature. As regards the constitution of the executive body, the Member said that the Dewan or the Chief Minister should be a local officer of at least 12 years' service. In exceptional cases an officer of similar experience from British India might also be chosen for the Dewanship. Besides the Dewan there should be not more than four Ministers, of whom two should be appointed from among the elected members of the Legislative Council. Those two members should be given portfolios for the administration of certain departments to be transferred to their charge. In regard to the subjects not so transferred, the services of the Ministers should be utilised as a consultative body. The Ministers should hold office for the term of the Legislative Council, or as long as they maintained the confidence of that body, their obligation to vacate office when they lost its confidence being enforced by the sanction of its refusal to vote supplies.

With regard to the Legislative Council, the Member considered that it should be expanded further in scope and function. The number of members should be increased by 50 per cent. for the present, 70 per cent. of the total strength being made up of elected non-officials. Provision should also be made for a non-official President. All measures affecting the general administration and all laws should be discussed and passed by the Council except those relating to the Ruling Family, the relations of the State with the Paramount Power and foreign States and the military forces of the State, the legislative enactments becoming laws of the State only after they were assented to by His Highness the Maha Raja. The powers of the Council to discuss and vote upon the annual State budget should be subject to the restrictions imposed by clause (8) of Section 16 of Regulation II of 1097, but free from some of the restrictions contained in clause (4) of the same Section. In respect of interpellations and resolutions on matters of public interest, the powers of the Council should extend to all subjects except those mentioned *supra*. The bicameral system of legislature did not find favour with the Member who thought that in a small State like Travancore the passing of the budget by a single legislature would conduce to greater expedition of business.

Coming to the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, the Member's opinion was that it did not adequately serve the purpose for which it was founded, that its present scope had become narrowed, and that it should, therefore, be expanded and placed on a statutory basis with increased powers. The scheme of reform of that institution proposed by the Member was that Divisional Assemblies should be created where local subjects should be discussed and that the members of those Assemblies should be elected from *pakuthies*, each *pakuthi* returning one member. The Dewan Peishkars should be the Presidents of those assemblies. The membership in the Divisional Assembly should last for 4 years. Ordinarily, the central Popular Assembly should meet once in two years. But if a majority of the Division Assemblies considered that a meeting of the central assembly should be held at the capital in a particular year, Government should make arrangements to hold the session accordingly. Each member of the Assembly should have a term of two years' membership. The subjects to be discussed by the Assembly should be those mentioned as being within the purview of the Legislative Council. The members should have the power of moving resolutions and voting upon them. Such resolutions, when carried by a majority of members not below a fixed minimum percentage, should have the same recommendatory force as those of the Legislative Council.

Finally, the Member suggested that the Government might extend the principle of local self-government so as to secure the fullest possible freedom to them from the control of the Central Government, but without making any tangible addition to the financial burden on the people.

161. Responsible Government.

Mr. M. R. Velu Karnavar (Member, Municipal Council, Haripad) in urging the necessity for the establishment of responsible government in Travancore, said that the time for it had come, as the people were becoming conscious of their civic rights and responsibilities. According to him the present system had to be changed, as well as the *personnel* ofthe administration. It was pointed out that

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

under the present system the Dewan was a foreigner and that he was being supported by an official heirarchy. The interests of the people, therefore, were not fully served and with a view to ensure the same, the Member represented that the administrative machinery should be made strictly subordinate to the executive body which should have a voice in the nomination of the Dewan who should be assisted by an Executive Council. The Member instanced the action taken by the Government in connection with the students' strike, the Cochin harbour works, the Kallar hydro-electric scheme, the heavy expenditure on the civil establishment, the continuance of English as the medium of communication in preference to the vernacular and the utter futility of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the Legislative Council as real representative institutions, to show that the present one-man administration was not responsible to the people. He argued that the events of the day all over the world had engendered in the minds of the people an idea of equality, fraternity and liberty and had facilitated rapid progress in every direction, and that the desire of the people to establish responsible government was not unreasonable, as they were forward in point of general education. The Member was of opinion that communal strife would disappear with the establishment of responsible government. He, therefore, proposed the appointment of a committee composed wholly of non-officials to submit definite proposals to satisfy the aspirations of the people in that matter.

Mr. Ouseph Joseph Kunju (Member, Changanachery Taluk) brought forward, for the consideration of the Government, a scheme of constitutional reform, in which both the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the Legislative Council should be given appropriate places. His main proposals were the following.

(1) There should be an Executive Council of five ministers elected by the members of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the Legislative Council.

(2) One of those ministers should be appointed as Dewan by His Highness the Maha Raja.

(3) The body of ministers so constituted should be responsible to both Houses.

(4) His Highness the Maha Raja should have the power to remove, without stating any reason, any minister or refuse the nomination of any minister. His Highness the Maha Raja should also have the power to ask the Legislative Council or the Sri Mulam Assembly to elect one minister in the place of another.

(5) In all matters the decision of His Highness the Maha Raja should be final.

(6) The Dewan should be the Head of the Administration and also the President of the Council and the Ministers should hold charge of one or more departments which might be entrusted to them by the Legislative Council.

(7) The administration of the State should be carried on by the Dewan according to the opinion of the majority of the members of the Executive Council.

(8) Except in reserved subjects the Dewan and the Ministers should be responsible to the Legislative Council.

(9) If the majority of the members of the Assembly and the Legislative Council disapproved of the actions of a Minister *thrice* consecutively or if both Houses passed a resolution recording their want of confidence in a Minister, he should immediately vacate his seat and the vacancy should be filled by the Legislative Council.

(10) The tenure of office of the Executive Council should cover the period of the Legislative Council which elected it and it might be allowed to extend till the first session of the subsequent Council, the members of the Executive Council being eligible for re-election by the subsequent Council.

(11) The strength of the Assembly should be 100 composed of—

(*a*) 50 members to represent the taluks ;
(*b*) 10 members to represent the agricultural classes ;
(*c*) 10 members to represent the mercantile and industrial interests ;

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

(*d*) 5 members to represent the Municipalities ;
(*e*) 5 members to represent the Ezhava community ;
(*f*) 3 members to represent the Mahomedan community ;
(*g*) 15 members to represent the interest of Europeans, Eurasians, Parayas, Pulayas, Kammalas, etc ; and
(*h*) 2 members to represent labour.

(12) The Legislative Council should be composed of—

(*a*) 30 members from the various taluks ;
(*b*) 6 members to represent the different religious heads ;
(*c*) 5 members to represent the Jenmies ; and
(*d*) 9 members to represent the land-holders who paid over Rs. 200 as annual tax and those whose pension per month exceeded Rs. 200.

(13) The President, the Vice-President and the Secretary of the Assembly as well as of the Legislative Council should be elected by the respective bodies concerned.

(14) The Assembly and the Legislative Council should meet three times a year and should also hold other sessions if necessary.

(15) The term of the Legislative Council should be for a period of four years.

(16) The members of the Legislative Council should have powers of interpellation, passing resolutions and discussing the State budget. The Council should also have complete control over the levy of any tax or the revision of imposts already in force.

(17) The Legislative Council should not have the power of discussing, considering, or passing resolutions on any matter concerning

(*a*) the Royal Household of Travancore or any member thereof; and

(*b*) the relations with the British Government or any of the foreign Indian States.

(18) His Highness the Maha Raja should have the power of dissolving those two institutions or removing any member thereof. But the necessary elections should be held within 4 months of such dissolution or removal.

(19) Every measure should first be placed before the Assembly and, on being passed by a majority of that body, should be brought forward at the Legislative Council. After its passage through the Council, it sould be submitted to His Highness the Maha Raja for His Highness' assent.

(20) If any member of the Legislative Council wished to bring forward any subject for consideration, he should first place it before the Assembly but should not have a vote in the Assembly.

(21) If any resolution was rejected by either House, a joint session of the two Houses should be held for the consideration of such a resolution the fate of which should be decided by the majority of votes at such a session.

(22) A resolution passed by the Legislative Council should be binding on the Government, subject to the veto of His Highness the Maha Raja.

(23) The Dewan should have the discretion to place his veto on any resolution passed by the Legislative Council. But if such resolution was passed a second time by the Legislative Council, it should be accepted by Government.

(24) With the permission of His Highness the Maha Raja each House should pass rules for the conduct of its own business.

(25) His Highness the Maha Raja should have power to withhold his assent to any law or administrative measure that might be passed by the Legislative Council without assigning any reason and also to pass any fresh law on his own motion, as the fountain head of all law and authority.

Dewan's reply to subjects Nos. 160 and 16.—I can only say that representations made in regard to these two subjects, *viz.*, Constitutional Reforms and Responsible Government, will be noted by the Government.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly